

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
HOUSTON DIVISION**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

MAXIMINO MONDRAGON

§
§
§
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§

CRIMINAL NO. H-05-890M

ORDER OF DETENTION PENDING TRIAL

In accordance with the Bail Reform Act, 18 U.S.C. § 3142(f), a detention hearing has been held. I conclude that the following facts are established by a preponderance of the evidence or clear and convincing evidence and require the detention of the above-named defendant pending trial in this case.

Findings of Fact

[] A. Findings of Fact [18 U.S.C. § 3142(e), § 3142(f)(1)].

[] (1) The defendant has been convicted of a (federal offense) (state or local offense that would have been a federal offense if a circumstance giving rise to federal jurisdiction had existed) that is

[] a crime of violence as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 3156(a)(4).

[] an offense for which the maximum sentence is life imprisonment or death.

[] an offense for which a maximum term of imprisonment of ten years or more is prescribed in 21 U.S.C. () § 801 et seq. () § 951 et seq. () § 955(a).

[] a felony that was committed after the defendant had been convicted of two or more prior federal offenses described in 18 U.S.C. § 3142(f)(1) (A)-(C), or comparable state or local offenses.

[] (2) The offense described in finding 1 was committed while the defendant was on release pending trial for a federal, state or local offense.

[] (3) A period of not more than five years has elapsed since the (date of conviction) (release of the defendant from imprisonment) for the offense described in finding 1.

[] (4) Findings Nos. 1, 2, and 3 establish a rebuttable presumption that no condition or combination of conditions will reasonably assure the safety of any other person and the community. I further find that the defendant has not rebutted this presumption.

☐ B. Findings of Fact [18 U.S.C. § 3142(e)]

☐ (1) There is probable cause to believe that the defendant has committed an offense

☐ for which a maximum term of imprisonment of ten years or more is prescribed in 21 U.S.C.
() § 801 et seq. () § 951 et seq. () § 955(a).

☐ under 18 U.S.C. § 924(c).

☐ (2) The defendant has not rebutted the presumption established by finding 1 that no condition or combination of conditions will reasonably assure the appearance of the defendant as required and the safety of the community.

☒ C. Findings of Fact [18 U.S.C. § 3142(f)(2)]

☒ (1) Defendant is accused of conspiracy and trafficking females, including minors, by coercion or force to engage in the sex trade.

☒ (2) There is a serious risk that the defendant will flee.

☒ (3) Defendant represents a danger to the community.

☒ (4) There is a serious risk that the defendant will threaten, injure, or intimidate a prospective witness or juror, or attempt to do so.

☒ D. Findings of Fact [18 U.S.C. § 3142(c)]

☐ (1) As a condition of release of the defendant, bond was set as follows:

☐ (2)

☒ (3) I find that there is no condition or combination of conditions set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3142(c) which will reasonably assure the appearance of the defendant as required.

☐ (4)

☒ (5) I find that there is no condition or combination of conditions set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3142(c) which will reasonably assure the safety of any other person or the community.

Written Statement of Reasons for Detention

I find that the accusations in the criminal complaint and the Pretrial Services Report, and evidence at the detention hearing, establish by a preponderance of the evidence that no condition or combination of conditions will reasonably assure the appearance of the defendant as required and by a clear and convincing evidence that no conditions will assure the safety of the community.

I conclude that the following factors specified in 18 U.S.C. § 3142(g) are present and are to be taken into account:

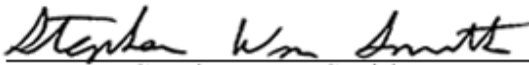
1. Defendant Mondragon is a 57 year-old naturalized United States citizen born in El Salvador. He has two children living in the United States. Three family members are co-defendants in this case. He has no criminal history.
2. Defendant Mondragon is charged with conspiracy and trafficking females, including minors, for the sex trade in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 371 and 1591.
3. Defendant Mondragon has owned several businesses in Houston, including the El Portrero Chimino bar. An I.C.E. agent involved in the investigation testified that she had reports that Mondragon paid co-defendant Corea to smuggle undocumented females from El Salvador and other countries to work in his bar. The I.C.E. agent also testified that Mondragon threatened, beat, and engaged in forced sex with some of the women he brought to this country and forced to engage in prostitution with patrons of his bar. There is evidence that he forced some women to have birth control shots.
4. There is evidence that Mondragon threatened harm to the smuggled females and their families back home if they did not cooperate with his prostitution scheme.
5. One of the co-defendants acknowledged in a post-arrest interview that Mondragon paid her \$300.00 to perform abortions on some of the smuggled females.
6. Mondragon has strong ties to El Salvador. He owns property and a business in El Salvador, and has family members there. He has traveled to El Salvador several times in the last year, with the apparent purpose of recruiting females to come to the United States to work in his bar.
7. There is no condition or combination of conditions of release which would assure the appearance of the defendant in court or the safety of the community. Detention is ordered.

Directions Regarding Detention

It is therefore ORDERED that the defendant is committed to the custody of the Attorney General or his designated representative for confinement in a corrections facility separate, to the extent practicable, from persons awaiting or serving sentences or being held in custody pending appeal. The

defendant shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity for private consultation with defense counsel. On order of a court of the United States or on request of an attorney for the Government, the person in charge of the corrections facility shall deliver the defendant to the United States Marshal for the purpose of an appearance in connection with all court proceedings.

Signed on November 25, 2005, at Houston, Texas.



Stephen Wm Smith
United States Magistrate Judge